ENGLISH COMPARE WILSON TO PREMIER

"He Talks Like a Major Prophet and Acts Like Lloyd George," They Say; Not a Complimentary Designation

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London, June 13.—(By mail.)—"He talks like one of the major prophets and acts like Lloyd George," the English have come to say of President Wilson.

This is not meant as a compliment. The Englishman, in the presence of a foreigner, is always a little ashamed of Lloyd George. The British premier is a national weakness. Parties fight for him. Men claim him on their side. The radicals cannot conceive of themselves as having any other leader and tell you with confidence that when the break-up of the coalition comes Lloyd George will be found on the radical side, at the same privately admitting that they don't know just how far he will go toward radicalism in practice. Conservatives equally claim him. They cannot conceive of themselves as entering the lists with the present premier arrayed on the other side.

Northcliffe and Lloyd George fell out after a long partnership lasting since the fall of Asquith, and the two attack each other publicly, one through his newspapers, the other through a speech in Parliament. All the while agents of the two wear a beaten path between them.

"You Never Can Tell"

A leading English Liberal, a personal friend of the premier, tells you "you can never tell what Lloyd George will do." He means what he says when he says it, but he does not take the trouble to find out just what his own words mean. He is capable of doing things perfectly inconsistent with his professions. He does not think out his own position. He does not understand its logical implications. When some course seems to him likely to be popular he takes it unhesitatingly, grieving his friends, but not himself conscious of giving them cause for grief.

The truth probably is that he is only interested in results and his professions are only a means to an end. When some other means inconsistent with them appears more likely to reach that end, he takes it without question. Consistency to him is probably a quality of result rather than courses. That is what an Englishman means when he says "he acts like Lloyd George." It is not flattering.

No One to Replace Him

Men say he has not any convictions. But for all that both sides want him in England, each being sure that with him they can win. He is the indispensable element that will contribute toward victory.

Until England breeds another Lloyd George it is difficult to see how any party can exist without him. He remained premier through the war because there was no one to put in his place. Equally there is no one to put in his place today. Poverty in public men of the first rank is not confined to America. If the Democrats have no one but Wilson to name for President, the Liberals and Laborites, on the one hand, and the Conservatives, on the other, have no one to make premier.

One thing seems sure: England may go conservative. That is the normal tendency of a country after a victory. But it will be Lloyd George, conservative, who will be premier. England may go radical—signs point that way—but if it does, it will be Lloyd George, radical, who will be premier. Or, better still, whichever way England goes it is not at all clear that Lloyd George will not occupy a middle-of-the-road position, supported by Northcliffe and holding together a combination from six other parties and making himself premier, being alternately radical and conservative in office as popular sentiment seems to require.

More Than Roosevelt or Wilson

Thus Lloyd George is in England more than Roosevelt ever was in the United States, and more than Wilson is there now. There remained parties in the United States in spite of all Roosevelt did to break them up, and there remain parties there now in spite of Wilson. But in England there are really no parties. There is only Lloyd George. There is for the first time in history no opposition, worthy name in the House of Commons. There is only Lloyd George.

The great coalition of which he is the head would break up—it has been predicted over and over again that it would break up of its own weight—but there remains Lloyd George. How divide him? How get on without him? If the premier could be apportioned as Solomon proposed to apportion the baby between the two claimant mothers in his famous decision there might be again two parties in England. If some new Solomon moved to do this, which would disclose her true maternal sentiment by disclaiming the child to spare its life, Mother Radicalism or Mother Conservatism? No one knows.

Only a Greater Can Supplant Him

Only one of two things can end Lloyd George, short of death—the appearance of another greater Lloyd George, one who, like the American President, can not only act like Lloyd George but talk like a major prophet, or the recovery by England of some of its old confidence and stability. Short of these things the English premier has perpetual occupation of office in a democracy, which is something like perpetual motion. For all one can see today he may go right on governing England, being conservative or radical as the occasion requires the rest of his days. Parties are gone, their institutions are gone, and that condition of public mind exists in which men turn to men, to the great man, who satisfies the everlasting herd instinct of the race in difficulties, and Lloyd George, who is great only as politician, is the only great man in sight.

Symptoms of National Weakness

A Lloyd George, a Roosevelt, is a symptom of national weakness. If the American people should insist upon four more years of Wilson it would be a symptom of national weakness. All progress in government is getting away from the head and its leader. It is building up faith in laws and institutions so that the frightened masses do not cry out in the night for the leader. When things go well with a body politic a quite ordinary man makes a good president or premier. It is a healthy sign in America that men are beginning to say "let us have a President like McKinley and a real Congress once more." It means that faith in the institutions, in what has been built up slowly through ages, is returning, and and bellowing for its leader.

Back to the Herd Stage

Now England is clear back to the herd stage, further back than America ever got, even in the most anxious moments of the war, when men were insisting that every voice be silent, so that the herd could unmistakably hear its leader.

Parties are gone. Institutions are gone. The House of Commons is less than our poor Congress was when it was merely registering the Wilson's will. Beliefs are gone. What is a Radical and what is a Conservative? Lloyd George. He is both.

It was the shock of the war that brought this about. And I am prepared to say that the shock of the war fell heavier upon England than upon France. There is no indispensable man in France. Which is a good sign. One of the greatest generals of all time is more likely to follow the course of Cincinnatus than of Napoleon. The iron M. Clemenceau is only waiting the signing of peace to become a mere name, a statue somewhere and a page in history. And there is no French Lloyd George in sight, neither one who acts like Lloyd George and talks like a major prophet. The only clever radical in sight is in jail, wher he is likely to be shot for treason. The Briands, Ribots, and among the younger men are only the French equivalents of McKinley, much clever, with not so much of the Sunday school book about them, but quite ordinary men. Their country and its institutions are much greater than they.

France's Exalted Position

France comes out of the war burdened with debt. And there will be anxious moments. But it emerges the second power in Europe, and an important member of the most formidable combination in the history of the world. It emerges with greatly increased national resources. With a reputation for military power only surpassed by that it possessed after Napoleon's victories. With a colonial empire, especially in northern Africa of great possibilities, now amply confirmed.

Half of her population are peasants, enjoying great prosperity, and giving her assurance of social stability not surpassed even by that of the United States itself. No big question confronts France, except that of paying its war debt. In a situation like this is not one where the herd calls for its leader.

Local Unrest a Grave Factor

England, on the contrary, has been more shaken. From first place she has dropped back to second place among the powers of the world. London is no longer the banking center of the world. New York has replaced it. America might at any time take the command of the seas away from the British navy. And at any time America does actually threaten the supremacy of England's mercantile marine. Moreover, the advantage of cheap labor on which England's prosperity rested is lost. Her labor is fast becoming as costly as our own, and is not nearly so efficient, by reason of short-sighted labor union policies and by reason of the failure of British capital to make the most of labor-saving machinery. On the seas La Follette law against which so much complaint has been made by American shipowners is likely to be the model of legislation in other countries. Certainly in England where the power of the labor unions daily increases. Our shortage of labor and its high cost have been a blessing. They have taught us to do the utmost with what we have. The English, the French and the rest of the nations of Europe have not learned the lesson and are not ready.

The social problem threatens in England as it does not in France or in America. The colonial question presents difficulties. Ireland, India, Egypt are full of the new spirit which the retaking of many races from the bondage of Austria, Turkey and Russia has awakened. And the truly English colonies demand a new share in the government of the empire. England thus faces many new things—a country greater than itself formidable in its rivalry; new organization of the empire itself is almost imposed by the results of the war; and the class movement which has brought uncertain fruits in Russia and Germany is nearer England than any other victorious country.

Herd Leader's Reign Temporary

For these reasons England has lost her confidence. For these reasons there is the herd's cry for a leader. And for these reasons you find Lloyd George radical, conservative, master politician who has no rule but experience, who is superior to party, superior to institutions. He has no convictions precisely because the hour demands no convictions but resourcefulness. Belief in something might handicap him or handicap the nation, therefore there is none.

Britain looks with a troubled eye on the main chance. Lloyd George is its man. He carries no impedimenta in the way of policies, but is quick to see the turn of results and profit by it. Even the voice of a major phophet, such as Wilson has, might be an obstacle. Therefore he has it not. He is a sign of weakness, uncertainty, troubled times, or whatever you chose to call it, just as Roosevelt was a sign of our internal anxiety over the situation created by the national scope business had attained in America. When the nation itself had only been imperfectly realized.

When Britain meets the difficulties created by her loss of her dominant position in the world, of her primacy influence, of her assured primacy on the seas, of her manufacturing advantages, in the break-up of empires and its natural influence upon the greatest of empires, by her colonial problems, and by the social question; when she becomes once more the assured country she was when she boasted of her splendid isolation, the hour of the Lloyd Georges will pass and the institutional type of man will return to power.

Lloyd George's Methods

In the Peace Conference at Paris the world has had a chance to see how Lloyd George acts. Perhaps the most amazing thing he has done was to demand recently the remaking of the treaty offered to Germany, in the interests of moderation. Just before the Peace Conference met at Paris Lloyd George held a Parliamentary election in England. He chose that time to hold it because the crisis in Britain's future presented by the Peace Conference was most acute. And for reasons already given in a crisis the head instinct reasserts itself.

Lloyd George chose wisely. A man without a party he succeeded in achieving a larger majority in the House than any premier ever had before. In a crisis men can not think. In a crisis men can not divide. Nothing counts except expediency and Lloyd George is expediency.

At the time of that campaign Lloyd George held out before the British electorate the idea of a punitive peace against Germany. Like a good politician he avoids precise language. Even a major prophet uses words susceptible of a dozen interpretations. During all the peace negotiations until recently he held firmly to the plan of making Germany pay, making it pay a crushing sum, making it lie under a burden of indebtedness from which it could not rise, especially rise and compete with British manufacturers. His chief financial adviser at Paris, an English banker of world-wide reputation, started out by demanding that the Germans should pay $120,000,000,000 in reparation.

His Right-About Face

Today it is Lloyd George who is leading the fight to make the burden upon Germany lighter. The whole of England in December seemed to demand a harsh peace with Germany. The whole of England, too, protests against the peace which was actually drawn up, and for the severity of which Lloyd George was so much responsible that President Wilson once called for the George Washington to take him home to the United States as a sign of his protest against the attitude of the British premier.

And so now Lloyd George has changed sides and is for moderating the peace.

He is for a severe peace when he thinks that is good politics. He is for a generous peace when he finds that not only are the British labor and liberals against the peace as drawn, but the British shipping interests, anxious over the development of American shipping, see cause for alarm and want the German market where they perceive great opportunities because of the loss of the German mercantile marine.

An Englishman who knows Lloyd George well says the latter is made anxious by the first day of criticism in the British press. The second day's criticism shakes his position, and the third day's makes him change sides.

It is related that an influential editor, wishing to force him to take a new position, once advocated an extreme development of that position. He did not want Lloyd George to go so far as his newspapers did, but he thought that Lloyd George would compromise if sufficiently hammered and go half way, which was about as far as the editor wanted him to go. But the premier surprised the editor by incontinently abandoning his former attitude and embracing with ardor the whole demands of his critics.

His Uncertain Geography

A little story illustrates the way Lloyd George acts. An American journalist removed some time ago from Berlin to Paris. He was a man of standing in his profession who had had excellent opportunities of observation in Germany. Lloyd George sent for him to have the benefit of his information.

The conversation turned on Silesia, one of the points of dispute at present, but a part of the country to which no one at Paris attached particular importance at the time of the Americans' return from Berlin.

"Let me see," said Lloyd George, "which is it, upper Silesia or lower Silesia that we have just given to Poland?"

"Now Silesia is one of the great points in the British premier's indictment of the treaty. It is incidents such as this which led a leading American financial expert to say the other day privately:

"The trouble with the treaty is it was made to suit the political exigencies of the British and the French."

Says Wilson Shifts Position

It is the same idea that the British have in mind when they say that "Wilson talks like a major prophet and acts like Lloyd George." The shifts of position between the two men have been remarkable. In general it has been Wilson who has been advocating a live and let live treaty with Germany. Now it is Lloyd George, and it is Wilson who is the strength of the opposition to changes. Wilson has an opposition Congress on his hands and must get home. Members of the American delegation say "we told them all along that they were making hash of the fourteen points, but they would not listen." Or again "all along the Americans were for the naming of a definite amount of reparations, but now it is too late. We have made the treaty and must stand by it."

The political situation at Washington commands it. The present moment reminds one of the moment when Lloyd George, fresh from England, fished the fourteen points out of the presidential waste basket and held them up before Wilson, insisting that the Poles should not get Danzig. Wilson graciously yielded that time to the Briton's superior acquaintance with the points. He may do so again. It is not clear. But everybody has contributed to making the treaty in the light of his domestic politics.

Wilson, perhaps, has never run in to Lloyd George and showed him a signed agreement of the Republican majority in Washington, saying "See what Sam is up against!" as Lloyd George did when 300 British members of Parliament signed a round robin demanding a punitive peace. Major prophets do not do it that way. But the difference, as the British indicate in their saying, between a major prophet and a minor prophet is the difference between the splendid but not entirely ingenuous gesture of calling the George Washington to Brest and the infirm motion that preceded it when Lloyd George went about showing his telegram from the 300 members of Parliament.

Politics at Peace Table

Nothing is what it seems at Paris. Nominally this was a meeting to set up a confederation of the world, to establish perpetual peace and justice. Actually the sharpest concern at present is to elect a Democratic President of the United States; to continue Lloyd George's control of England, and to insure a conservative successor of Clemenceau, agreeable to the Tiger.

Peacemaking, which used to be the trade of diplomats, is now the avocation of politicians. Theoretically the people are making the peace. Actually Lloyd George insisted on trying to conceal from his own people the terms of peace until it should be signed and he awoke the keen resentment of his associates in the Big Four when he permitted his people to find him out.

M. Clemenceau has hidden the truth better, but probably a sharp reaction awaits him. The rumble in Paris is ominous. The gathering of troops here indicates that M. Clemenceau knows it is ominous.

The Big Four are big only by courtesy and by comparison. The only big thing is what is going on in the minds of the masses—the thing which makes Lloyd George bob about from being the most severe to the most lenient peacemaker; the thing against which M. Clemenceau gathers his guns. No one knows what that thing is. One moment people say it is a great conservative reaction; the next a social revolution. The Big Four tries to guess; shapes its peace first one way and then the other as it guesses. Everybody "acts like Lloyd George." Only one man has also the voice of a major prophet.

The British premier, one moment saying, "See what I am up against," and the next whacking Northcliffe to divert the public mind while his agents beat a path to Northcliffe's door; one moment demanding every last cent from Germany and the next insisting on an easy peace; one moment asking where is Silesia and the next making Silesia the great moral issue, is the sign and symbol of the Peace Conference.

Lloyd George's Acts Worth Study

How Lloyd George acts is worth studying. International government has been set up. It is certain to resemble the Peace Conference. It is going to "act like Lloyd George." In fact, he is the only figure in it that promises to be permanent. Clemenceau will go—and soon. Orlando will not delay long. Wilson—financial men here tell us the United States will get richer and richer, anyway, no matter what happens. With that assurance, the nation will probably turn from Wilson. Lloyd George will go on because he "acts like Lloyd George." And the present moment of critical uncertainty in England, perhaps in all the rest of the world except the United States, certainly demands men who act like Lloyd George, who carry no such burden of convictions that they cannot shift and shift quickly.

Rescued From Burning Ambulance

Trenton, July 7.—While making a fast run to a hospital with a victim of heat prostration yesterday the police ambulance caught fire as a result of a bursting carburetor and was destroyed. The patient was removed by the offi-

NEW ADMITS SLANDER AGAINST SLAIN GIRL

Slayer Retracts Statements When Confronted by Physicians. Controversy About Parentage

MOTHER RUSHES TO HIM

By the Associated Press

Los Angeles, Calif., July 7.—Harry S. New has admitted to the police, according to the officers, that his fiancee, Miss Frieda Lesser, whom he shot and killed early Saturday morning, was not expecting to become a mother, as he previously had asserted.

This admission was made when, according to the police, they confronted New with statements by physicians.

Then, they said, New admitted he killed Miss Lesser because she had refused to marry him.

His mother, Mrs. Lulu Burger, is expected to arrive home from Indianapolis tomorrow night.

An autopsy will be performed on Miss Lesser's body today.

Chicago, July 7.—Mrs. Lulu Burger, mother of Harry S. New, who gave himself up to the police in Los Angeles on Saturday after killing his fiancee, Miss Frieda Lesser, passed through Chicago yesterday on her way to her son in California.

Her attention was called to the statement of Senator Harry S. New, of Indiana—that her story of their marriage and subsequent divorce was false.

"Harry's father is United States Senator Harry S. New, of Indiana," she said. "Mr. New and I were married a long time ago, when I was a young girl, and we have been divorced more than twenty-two years."

She gave no details of the marriage or divorce. She said she was married a second time after being divorced from Senator New, and she has a daughter, Edna Burger, by the second marriage. "My maiden name was Lulu Scudder," she added. "Mr. Burger is dead."

Officers of the 150th Field Artillery, Rainbow Division, said, that a Harry S. New served as a corporal of muleteers in that unit on the Mexican border and that during the entire time of his enlistment he claimed the senator was his father.

Indianapolis, July 7.—Mrs. Burger left here yesterday for Los Angeles. It is understood that before going she consulted John W. Claypool, an Indianapolis attorney, who may take charge of her son's case.

The man under arrest at Los Angeles lived here most of his life, and was known among his friends as Harry S. New. He enlisted under that name in Battery A, an Indianapolis unit in the old Indiana Artillery Regiment, and served with it on the Mexican border, retiring from the service when he developed tuberculosis. It is understood that he gave up his employment here and went to Los Angeles for his health.

He is thirty-two, according to his mother's statement. She also said that she and Senator New were divorced four years after the boy was born. Senator New's friends here do not recall a marriage with Mrs. Burger. No one seems to recall a divorce having been granted to her or to Senator New.

When Mr. New was running for the senatorial nomination in 1915, some of his political opponents sought to injure him among the church people by circulating quietly the story that he had a son as the result of an unfortunate affair of his youth. Some of the scheming politicians even went so far as to send anonymous letters to his home regarding the incident.

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